20th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) There is no such scheme in Malabar district. But a scheme for conducting a survey of the pepper crop in the West Coast is under the consideration of the Government.

" (*b*) In view of the answer to clause (*a*) of the question this does not arise."

Issue of licences for opening new rice mills.

* 474 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answers to the supplementary questions to question No. 385, answered on 26th March 1954—

(*a*) whether the Government have arrived at any decision regarding the issue of licences to rice mills; and

(*b*) if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) At present there is no ban on the issue of licences for opening of new rice mills or the expansion of the existing rice mills in this State. The question whether a ban could or should be imposed for the sake of encouraging hand-pounding of rice is under the examination of the Planning Commission and the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The Government of India have also appointed a Committee to examine in detail the various problems connected with the milling of rice. The State Government will take necessary action after considering the results of these enquiries."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know how many new licences have been granted by this Government in a year? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

Development of village ghanis.

* 475 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any scheme for the development of village *ghanis;* and

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The details of the scheme are briefly as follows :—

' It has been proposed to set up 30 demonstration *chekku* centres in select National Extension Service and Community Project Blocks. Each centre will be a combined production and training centre. Seven hundred and fifty oil mongers will be trained in the use of the improved Wardha type *chekkus* during the next year. The scheme includes